(b) to (d) The LCA programme will remain unaffected as the impact on the schedule of LCA is being overcome by concentrated effort by a national team.

Plans of Nuclear Strike by Pakistan

3067. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press newsitem captioned "Pak planning first N-strike on India" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th June, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Pak military commanders have recently discussed nuclear strikes against India and have drawn up a list of cities and military installations to be targeted;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to counter such attacks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have seen media reports about some Pakistani nuclear scientists, who having defected to western countreis, have revealed Pakistan Government's plans for pre-emptive nuclear strikes against India. Government have also noted from these reports the many inconsistencies that have been pointed out in the account of one of these "nuclear scientists". At the same time, such reports, proven or otherwise, vindicate steps taken by the Government to create a secure deterrent against the use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction against India. Government have closely minotored the acquisition of clandestine ballistic missile and nuclear weapons capability by Pakistan. It has also noted statements by Pakistani leaders in this regard. It has taken the requisite steps to safeguard the nation's security and will continue to exercise the utmost vigilance in this regard.

Ordinance Factory and Army Training Schools in Punjab

3068. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government have urged Government for setting up of an ordinance factory, an Army Training School and an Army School in the State of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The infeasibility of setting up of an ordnance factory has been conveyed to the Punjab Government. Regarding the Army School and the Army Training School, matter is under examination in the Government. A decision will be taken shortly.

Pak Missiles on Indian Borders

3069. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pak missiles tipped with nuclear warheads are posted on Indian borders; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to counter the threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are no reports to suggest deployment of Pak missiles tipped with nuclear warheads on Indian border.

All developments having bearing on India's national security are regularly monitored and necessary steps are taken from time to time to thwart any attempt at misadventure on the part of our adversaries.